

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

105th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 128

June 25, 1997, 4:42 pm
Page S-6318 Temp. Record

BALANCED BUDGET ACT/Children's Health Special Needs Mandate

SUBJECT: **Balanced Budget Act of 1997 . . . S. 947. Domenici motion to table the Lautenberg (for Kennedy) amendment No. 492.**

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 57-43

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 947, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, will make net mandatory spending reductions to achieve the savings necessary to balance the budget by 2002 and to provide the American people with tax relief. This bill is the first reconciliation bill that is required by H.Con. Res. 84, the Budget Resolution for fiscal year (FY) 1998 (see vote No. 92). The second bill will provide tax relief (see vote No. 160).

The Lautenberg (for Kennedy) amendment would require health care coverage for uninsured children that will be given using the \$16 billion provided for that purpose by this bill to include "additional benefits to meet the needs of children with special needs," including: rehabilitation and habilitation services; mental health services; personal care services; customized durable medical equipment, orthotics, and prosthetics; and case management services. For coverage provided through plans other than Medicaid, such services could not be limited with respect to either scope or duration to the extent that they were medically necessary.

The amendment was offered after all debate time had expired. However, by unanimous consent, some debate was permitted. After debate, Senator Domenici moved to table the Kennedy amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

Those favoring the motion to table contended:

The health care initiative that is in this bill is structured to give States the maximum flexibility possible in designing programs to provide uninsured children with health insurance. Federal controls are avoided because experience has proven that the greater the Federal Government's control over a health care program the worse and more expensive the services that program provides will be.

(See other side)

YEAS (57)			NAYS (43)			NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans (52 or 95%)		Democrats (5 or 11%)	Republicans (3 or 5%)	Democrats (40 or 89%)		Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Helms	Baucus	Chafee	Akaka	Johnson		
Allard	Hutchinson	Breaux	Jeffords	Biden	Kennedy		
Ashcroft	Hutchison	Graham	Specter	Bingaman	Kerry		
Bennett	Inhofe	Kerrey		Boxer	Kohl		
Bond	Kempthorne	Moynihan		Bryan	Landrieu		
Brownback	Kyl			Bumpers	Lautenberg		
Burns	Lott			Byrd	Leahy		
Campbell	Lugar			Cleland	Levin		
Coats	Mack			Conrad	Lieberman		
Cochran	McCain			Daschle	Mikulski		
Collins	McConnell			Dodd	Moseley-Braun		
Coverdell	Murkowski			Dorgan	Murray		
Craig	Nickles			Durbin	Reed		
D'Amato	Roberts			Feingold	Reid		
DeWine	Roth			Feinstein	Robb		
Domenici	Santorum			Ford	Rockefeller		
Enzi	Sessions			Glenn	Sarbanes		
Faircloth	Shelby			Harkin	Torricelli		
Frist	Smith, Bob			Hollings	Wellstone		
Gorton	Smith, Gordon			Inouye	Wyden		
Gramm	Snowe						
Grams	Stevens						
Grassley	Thomas						
Gregg	Thompson						
Hagel	Thurmond						
Hatch	Warner						

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

With reluctance, we have already compromised on the original bill language by agreeing that private health plans that are offered will offer benefits equivalent to the benefits offered by Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and they will include vision and hearing benefits. Many of us are very troubled by that compromise; we know that many States have already pursued a variety of initiatives in trying to get coverage for all their uninsured children, and many of them have had great results at very minimal costs. Agreeing to this amendment would put that many more restrictions on States' efforts to find the solutions that work best for them. We fervently believe, after decades of experience with dealing with Federal agencies, that much better care at much less cost will be possible if we resist the temptation to pass mandates such as are contained in the Kennedy amendment. On that basis, we strongly urge our colleagues to table the Kennedy amendment.

Those opposing the motion to table contended:

We are thankful that our colleagues have agreed that a standard health benefits package should be mandated for children that is equivalent to a Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan. We now ask them to take the next step by approving additional required benefits for special needs children. We have offered this amendment because the Blue Cross/Blue Shield standard option is targeted to adults, not children. Any plan option for children should include benefits for the unique needs of children with special needs. The American Association of Retarded Citizens, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, and the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities all favor the Kennedy amendment. We urge our colleagues to support it as well.